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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

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VCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

O. 12356: DECL 10/20/92
BS: PINT, PINS, SOCI, AR
BJ: THE SCANDAL SPREADS GEOMETRICALLY

F: A) B.A. 5820, B) B.A. 5694, C) B.A. 5313

ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY: WHAT STARTED AS AN ACCUSATION
AT THE NAVY HAD SQUANDERED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS ON THE
'83 WORLD SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP IN BUENOS AIRES HAS RAPIDLY
CALATED INTO DEMANDS FOR AN ACCOUNTING OF EXCESSES
IMMITTED DURING THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM AND AN END TO
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IMPUTED TO GROUPS PURPORTEDLY
CONNECTED TO THE SECURITY FORCES. PROMINENT FORMER
GOVERNMENT FIGURES FIND THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY ON THE
DEFENSIVE WITH SUCCEEDING REVELATIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

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FROM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DEATH AND DISAPPEARANCES OF THE TWO DIPLOMATS RESPECTIVELY, AROUSED PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE IT GAVE SUBSTANCE TO THE VIEW THAT THE METHODS EMPLOYED IN THE "DIRTY WAR" WHICH MOST ARGENTINES ACCEPTED AS NECESSARY TO COMBAT SUBVERSIVES, WERE ALSO USED AGAINST PERSONS WHO HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE TERRORISTS. THE SCANDAL TOOK ON A NEW DIMENSION WITH THE ARREST IN GENEVA OF THE HEAD OF ITALY'S ANDESTINE MASONIC LODGE, PROPAGANDA DUE, WHICH INDUCED CHARGES THAT IMPLICATE SOME PROMINENT ARGENTINES AS MEMBERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AND OWNERS OF PERIODICALS WHICH HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE P-2 AND E HOLMBERG AND HIDALGO SOLA CASES HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED RECEIVING DEATH THREATS.

THE MOST EXPLOSIVE EVENT IN THIS SCANDAL, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THE UNRESOLVED MURDER OF MARCELO DUPONT, THE BROTHER OF A WITNESS IN THE HOLMBERG CASE (REF A).

THE ARGENTINE PRESS AND POLITICIANS, THE MURDER AND ALLEGATIONS SUGGEST THAT, DESPITE THE PROMISE OF ELECTIONS AND A RELATIVELY FREE ENVIRONMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS FOR THE PRESS, POLITICAL PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS AND SO FORTH, THOSE WHO IN THE MID-1970'S EMPLOYED THE LEFTIST TERRORISTS' OWN TACTICS TO DEFEAT THEM ARE PREPARED TO REVIVE THESE SAME METHODS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS GROUP, WHICH IS PRESUMED TO BE BEYOND GOVERNMENT CONTROL, ARE WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE A) TO INTIMIDATE PERSONS WHO MIGHT REVEAL INFORMATION ON ABUSES COMMITTED UNDER THE CLOCK OF SECRECY PREVAILING DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE MILITARY REGIME, AND B) EMBARRASS OR EVEN

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STABILIZE THE BIGNONE REGIME WITH THE INTENTION OF BRINGING BACK THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING WITHIN WHICH INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY

ARGENTINES OF EVERY RIVE REACTED WITH OUTRAGE AND ALARM TO THE DUPONT MURDER AND CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE BUT THERE IS WIDESPREAD SUSPICION THAT THE POLICE AND COURTS WILL BE POWERLESS TO PREVENT REVENGE. THE DUPONT MURDER IS SEEN AS A TEST WHETHER THE

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GOVERNMENT IS ABLE AND WILLING TO BRING TO JUSTICE THE
KILLERS, AND THEREBY RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE THAT
PARAMILITARY DEATH SQUADS AND AGENTS OF TERROR CAN NO
LONGER ACT WITH IMPUNITY. END SUMMARY

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5. FOR WEEKS THE PRESS HAS GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE TO DEVELOP-
MENTS IN THE KIDNAP-MURDER OF ELENA HOLMBERG IN 1978, THE
KIDNAP-DISAPPEARANCE A YEAR EARLIER OF THEN ARGENTINE
AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA AND, MOST
RECENTLY, THE MURDER OF MARCELO DUPONT, BROTHER
OF A WITNESS IN THE HOLMBERG CASE. THE DUPONT MURDER
PROVOKED WIDESPREAD REVULSION, DEMANDS FOR A THOROUGH
INVESTIGATION AND SPECULATION THAT PARA-MILITARY DEATH
SQUADS BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL ARE ATTEMPTING TO
UNDERMINE THE BIGNONE GOVERNMENT, INTIMIDATE THOSE WHO
MIGHT REVEAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FATE OF THE DIS-
APPEARED, OR BOTH.

6. THE RE-EMERGENCE OF ITALY'S P-2 SCANDAL WITH THE
SEPTEMBER 14 ARREST IN GENEVA OF THE LODGE'S GRAND

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MASTER, LICIO GELLI, HAS BEEN SWEEPED UP IN THE CONTROVERSY.
THE ARGENTINE ON THE SPOT IN ALL OF THIS IS FORMER NAVY
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COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF EMILIO MASSERA, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
OF HIS PARTY FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. BUT OTHER NAMES ARE
BEING MENTIONED AS INVOLVED OR COVERING UP.

--THE WORLD SOCCER CHAMPINSHIP AND ELENA HOLMBERG--

7. AT THE END OF AUGUST, WIRE SERVICE "NITICIAS
ARGENTINAS" INTERVIEWED JUAN ALEMANN, TREASURY SECRETARY
AT THE TIME OF THE 1978 SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP. ALEMANN HAD
CRITICIZED THE NAVY'S MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE
GAMES, WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY BUDGETED TO COST US 70 MILLION
DOLLARS BUT WHICH ALEMANN TOLD N.A. HAD BALLOONED TO
SOMETHING LIKE TEN TIMES THAT AMOUNT. MASSERA, NAVY CINC
AT THE TIME, TRIED TO DISCREDIT ALEMANN, WHO IN TURN
RESPONDED THAT HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE, IMPLYING HE
FEARED MASSERA AND HIS NAVY ASSOCIATES. AS REPORTED
REFTEL (C), ALEMANN THEN CALLED FOR AN "IN-DEPTH" INVESTI-
GATION OF THE HOLMBERG AND HIDALGO SOLA CASES, WIDELY
BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF GROUPS WITH NAVY CONNECTIONS.

8. THE FAMILIES OF THE TWO DIPLOMATS
CAME FORWARD WITH NEW CHARGES AND DEMANDS THAT THE
CASES BE REOPENED AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE BROUGHT TO
JUSTICE. FOLLOWING MRS. HIDALGO SOLA'S SEPTEMBER 13
REQUEST TO PRESIDENT BIGNONE TO FORM A SPECIAL INVESTI-
GATION OF HER HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE, ELENA HOLMBERG'S
TWO BROTHERS, ENRIQUE AND EUGENIO, WENT PUBLIC.

9. ON SEPTEMBER 14, ENRIQUE ACCUSED FORMER PRESIDENT
RAFAEL VIDELA OF COVERING UP THE CRIME. HE LINKED HIS
SISTER'S ABDUCTION-KILLING TO A GROUP OF ARGENTINE NAVY
OFFICERS WHO WERE SENT TO PARIS, WHERE SHE WAS PRESS
ATTACHE, BY MASSERA TO SET UP A "PILOT CENTER" IN THE
ARGENTINE EMBASSY THERE; SO FAR ONLY SKETCHY PURPOSES
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HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THAT NAVY OPERATION. ENRIQUE HOLMBERG THEN RELATED THAT BOTH HIS SISTER AND AMBASSADOR TOMAS DE ANCHORENA HAD TROUBLE WITH THE CENTER OFFICERS WHICH RESULTED IN A REQUEST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HAVE HOLMBERG AND ANCHORENA RECALLED. THE AMBASSADOR DEFEATED MASSERA'S ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO REMOVE HIM BUT ELENA DID NOT. ENRIQUE'S STORY WAS CONFIRMED IN ALL ITS ESSENTIALS LATER IN THE WEEK BY FORMER AMBASSADOR ANCHORENA.

10. IN THE FOUR MONTHS BETWEEN HER RETURN TO ARGENTINA AND HER DEATH, ENRIQUE SAID HIS SISTER STATED SHE WAS IN TROUBLE AND WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE A "SERIOUS PROBLEM". HE SPECULATED THAT "SHE KNEW SOMETHING AND THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO DID NOT WANT THIS THING KNOWN." FOLLOWING HER MURDER, HE SAID HE APPROACHED THEN INTERIOR MINISTER ALBANO HARGUINDEGUY, WHO PROMISED HIM "COMPLETE INFORMATION" ON THE CRIME WITHIN TWO MONTHS. THE FINAL DECISION TO WITHHOLD THE PROMISED INFORMATION, HOLMBERG SAID HE BELIEVES, "COME FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS -- CONCRETELY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC", THEN VIDELA. VIDELA LATER REFUSED COMMENT ON EITHER CASE, EXCEPT TO SAY HE WOULD ONLY ANSWER TO A JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL OR AN ARMY COURT OF HONOR.

11. THE FEDERAL JUDGE WHO CLOSED THE BOOKS IN 1980 ON THE HOLMBERG MURDER, FERNANDO ZAVILIA, DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 16 TO REOPEN HIS COURT'S INVESTIGATION, AFTER

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THE HOLMBERGS BEGAN TALKING TO THE PRESS, WHICH THEN FOLLOWED OTHER LEADS THAT PRODUCED THESE DEVELOPMENTS:
--PATRICIO KELLY, A PUBLICITY-HOUND, SAID ELENA WAS KILLED ON MASSERA'S ORDERS AFTER SHE HAPPENED ON TO THE ADMIRAL IN A PARIS RESTAURANT DINING WITH TWO NOTORIOUS MONTONERO TERRORISTS, MARIO FIRMECH AND FERNANDO VACA NARVAJA. KELLY ALSO FILED COURT CHARGES AGAINST MASSERA FOR THE KIDNAP-MURDER OF A KELLY ASSOCIATE, FERNANDO BRANCO.
--IT BECAME KNOWN THAT JUDGE ZAVALIA HAD IN HIS POSSESSION THE NAMES OF AT LEAST THREE NAVY OFFICERS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF MASSERA'S ANTI-SUBVERSIVE "TASK-FORCE". THESE THREE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WHICH MADE THEIR NAMES PUBLIC, COULD BE PRIME SUSPECTS IN ELENA'S DEATH.
--THE NEWLY-FOUNDED LEFTIST PERONIST DAILY "LA VOZ" REPORTED SEPTEMBER 16 THE NAMES OF FOUR NAVY OFFICERS MASSERA SENT TO PARIS IN 1978 TO OPEN THE MYSTERIOUS PILOT CENTER AND WHO LATER HAD CONFLICTS WITH ELENA HOLMBERG AND AMBASSADOR ANCHORENA. ANCHORENA REFUSED TO CONFIRM THE NAMES OR DIVULGE MORE.

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--MASSERA ADMITTED TO DEALING WITH P-2 LEADER GELLI BECAUSE OF HIS EXCELLENT CONTACTS. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DISAPPROVED OF AMBASSADOR ANCHORENA DUE TO THE LATTER'S ALLEGED INEFFECTIVENESS AND HE ACCUSED ANCHORENA OF SPREADING FALSE INFORMATION ORIGINATING WITH TERRORISTS IN EUROPE.
--FEDERAL POLICE HAVE ORDERED SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR A LAWYER, MOLINA ZUVIRIA, WHO REPORTEDLY RECEIVED DEATH THREATS AFTER HE TESTIFIED IN COURT AS A WITNESS IN THE HOLMBERG CASE.
--TWO PERIODICALS, "QUORUM" AND "PRENSA CHICA", WHICH HAVE GIVEN PARTICULARLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE P-2, MASSERA AND THE HOLMBERG/HIDALGO SOLA CASES, HAVE RECEIVED REPEATED THREATENING PHONE CALLS.

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-HIDALGO SOLA-

12. THE HIDALGO SOLA FAMILY APPEARS TO HAVE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCES WITH MASSERA AND LATER WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AS THE HOLMBERGS, ACCORDING TO MRS. HIDALGO SOLA. SHE TOLD N.A. THAT THE THEN NAVY COMMANDER TRIED TO HAVE HER HUSBAND FIRED FROM HIS CARACAS POST; NO REASONS FOR THIS WERE ADDUCED BUT SHE SAID THAT HER HUSBAND APPEALED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA, WHO VETOED THE MOVE, AS ANCHORENA SAID THE PRESIDENT DID AFTER MASSERA TRED TO HAVE HIM REMOVED. LATER, AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND PROMISES FROM THE PRESIDENCY THAT THERE WOULD BE A FULL INVESTIGATION AND REPORT, VIDELA TOLD MRS. HIDALGO SOLA HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS WITH THE INVESTIGATION. HIS SUCCESSOR IN THE PRESIDENCY, ROBERTO VIOLA, MADE THE SAME PROMISE BUT GAVE UP WHEN HE FOUND, SHE SAID, "THE PROBE COULD NOT GO AHEAD DUE TO A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE."

13. FEDERAL JUDGE NICASIO DIBR HAS REOPENED THE COURT
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IVESTIGATION OF THE HIDALGO SOLA DISAPPEARANCE, CITING THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF NEW EVIDENCE IN VIEW OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS. AS AN INTRIGUING DISELIGHT TO THIS CASE, CLARIN REPORTED SEPTEMBER 19 THAT RODOLFO FERNANDEZ PONDAL, A JOURNALIST WELL CONNECTED WITH HIDALGO SOLA, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THESRADICAL PARTY, WAS HIMSELF KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED A SHORT TIME AFTER THE AMBASSADOR DISAPPEARED. THE NEWS-PAPER BROADLY HINTS A TIE BETWEEN THE TWO CRIMES.

-THE ALLEGED LINK TO P-2-

14. THE TENUOUS LINK BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATS' CASES AND P-2 APPEARS BASED ON LITTLE MORE AT THIS POINT THEN THE ASSERTIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES, BUT TE ACCUSATIONS AND REVELATIONS HAVE MASSERA AS THEIR CHIEF TARGET. HIDALGO SOLA, EVEN WHILE UNACCOUNTED FOR, WAS REPLACED BY FEDERICO BARTFELT, ACCUSED BY SEVERAL SOURCES AS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF P-2. IT HAS BEEN CLAIMED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIATION THAT GRAND MASTER GELLI FURTHERED BARTFELT'S DIPLOMATIC CAREER BY INFLUENCING HIS NOMINATION -- BY INFERENCE THROUGH HIS PURPORTED CONTACT WITH MASSERA -- TO THE ARGENTINE EMBASSIES IN VENEZUELA, GERMANY AND NOW ROMANIA.
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15. IF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SCANDALS IS THIN, THERE HAS NEVERTHELESS BEEN A CASCADE OF CHARGES THAT IMPLICATE ARGENTINES OF BOTH THE PREVIOUS PERON GOVERNMENT, WHICH MADE GELLI ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE ROME EMBASSY WITH AN ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, AND THE CURRENT MILITARY REGIME. FEDERALIST PARTY CHIEF FRANCISCO MANRIQUE SAID SEPTEMBER 14 HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SOURCES THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE A TWO-FOOT THICK FILE ON P-2, TYING SOME 20 PROMINENT ARGENTINE NAMES TO THE SECRETARY SOCIETY. JUAN ALEMANN, THE FOLLOWING DAY, CHARGED MASSERA NOT ONLY WAS A MEMBER OF THE LODGE BUT HAD GIVEN SAFEHAVEN TO GELLI HERE WHEN HE FLED EUROPE LAST YEAR TO AVOID ARREST. RETIRED GEN. GUILLERMO SUAREZ MASON, IDENTIFIED LAST YEAR AS A MEMBER OF P-2 ALONG WITH ASSERA, TOLD N.A. THAT GELLI, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC RESPONSIBILITIES, HAS BEEN IN ARGENTINA "COUNTLESS TIMES" WHEN HIS "WELL-KNOWN

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FRIENDSHIPS WITH VARIOUS PRESIDENTS AND ALL SORTS OF AUTHORITIES....ALLOWED HIM TO MOVE FREELY WITHIN THE HIGHER OFFICIAL CIRCLES."

16. THE PRESS HAS ALSO LINKED MASSERO TENUOUSLY TO THE LOCAL BANCO AMBROSIANO OF P-2 FAME, AND ITS CONNECTION TO A MAJOR B.A. PUBLISHING HOUSE, EDITORIAL ABRIL, S.A., WHOSE ITALIAN DIRECTOR WAS DETAINED BRIEFLY IN ITALY IN THE P-2 AFFAIR LAST YEAR, AND AMBROSIANO PROMOTIONS AND SERVICES GROUP, WHOSE OFFICES ARE IN THE SAME BUILDING AS MASSERA'S. NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS CLAIMS THAT NAVY FRIENDS OF MASSERA ARE IN IMPORTANT POSITIONS AT THE PUBLISHING FIRM. MEANWHILE, CARLOS IBANEZ, A BOARD MEMBER OF EDITORIAL ABRIL AND A JOURNALIST, HAS RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS, ONE OF WHICH PURPORTEDLY HAD PROPAGANDA DUE MARKINGS ON IT.

17. AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, MASSERA ACCUSED HIS DETRACTORS OF A DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AND DENIED BELONGING TO THE P-2 OR HAVING "THE MOST MINIMUM PARTICIPATION" IN THE HOLMBERG-HIDALGO SOLA KIDNAPPINGS. NEVERTHELESS, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE NEW INVESTIGATIONS, MASSERA HAS BEEN BADLY TARNISHED AND WE SUSPECT THAT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE, IF HE EVER HAD ANY, IS CLOUDED FOR THE TIME BEING.

-DUPONT MURDER SHAKES THE NATION-

18. THE DUPONT KIDNAP-MURDER (REFTEL A) HAS SENT STRONGER SHOCK WAVES THROUGH ARGENTINA THAN ANY POLITICAL EVENT SINCE THE FALL OF PORT STANLEY ON JUNE 14. DUPONT, WE RECALL, WAS THE BROTHER OF A WITNESS AGAINST MASSERA. HE WAS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT DURING THE RUSH-HOUR AND HIS BODY APPEARED IN ONE OF THE MOST ARISTOCRATIC NEIGHBORHOODS OF BUENOS AIRES A WEEK LATER. HE REPORTEDLY DIED FROM A
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BLOW TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD.

19. THE GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED THE ATROCITY AND LAUNCHED AN INTENSE INVESTIGATION BUT THIS FAR THERE ARE NO CLUES, AT LEAST NOT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, REGARDING WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE AND NO CREDIBLE MOTIVE OTHER THAN THE ONE THAT IS ON MOST OBSERVERS LIPS: THAT DUPONT WAS TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT DARE TO REVEAL WHAT THEY

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KNOW ABOUT THE FATE OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS OR OTHER CRIMES. POLICE CHIEF JUAN SASIAIN TOLD THE PRESS ON OCTOBER 15 THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESOLVING THE CASE AND ASSERTED, WITHOUT CITING EVIDENCE, THAT THE MURDER DID NOT HAVE "POLITICAL ORIGINS." POLITICIANS AND OTHERS HAVE REACTED WITH OUTRAGE AND PREDICT DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR ARGENTINES IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PRODUCE THE KILLER(S).

20. COMMENT: UNTIL RECENTLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS IN THE BACKGROUND OF DOMESTIC POLITICS IN ARGENTINA, PRIMARILY BECAUSE MOST ARGENTINES BELIEVE THAT ALL, OR ALMOST ALL, THOSE WHO DIED OR DISAPPEARED IN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM WERE, IN FACT, TERRORISTS OR THEIR ASSOCIATES AND THAT EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIED AT LEAST DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE WAR. HUMBLE, ARISTOCRATIC AND MILITARY FAMILIES ALIKE ACCEPTED IN SILENCE THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THEIR RELATIVES IN THE MID 1970'S WHEN IT WAS SUSPECTED

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THEY MIGHT BE LINKED TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY. OTHERS KEPT THEIR PEACE OUT OF FEAR. A FEW WHO DISAGREED OR WERE NOT COWED, SUCH AS THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND

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THE BUENOS AIRES "HERALD", PROTESTED BUT WERE LARGELY IGNORED WITHIN ARGENTINA.

21. IN RECENT MONTHS, ANTI-REGIME SENTIMENT DUE TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, RUMORS OF CORRUPTION, THE FALKLANDS DEFEAT AND SO FORTH, HAS COINCIDED WITH GREATER FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY PRESS FREEDOM, AND PRE-ELECTORAL POSTURING TO PRODUCE A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO VARIOUS DEMANDS REGARDING THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABUSES DURING THE "DIRTY WAR."

22. THE MOS TIMID REQUEST CAME FROM THE CHURCH, WHICH IN OBLIQUE LANGUAGE, HAS BEEN PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT TO TELL FAMILIES THAT THEIR LOVED ONES ARE DEAD. MOST POLITICIANS LIMIT THEMSELVES TO VAGUE REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED AND
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THAT THE "LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION" BE OBSERVED. AT THE OPPOSITE EXTREME ARE THOSE, LIKE THE MOTHERS AND LEFTIST POLITICIANS WHO DEMAND FULL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTION FOR ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES CONNECTED WITH THE "DIRTY WAR," CORRUPTION AND MISTAKES OR NEGLIGENCE DURING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFLICT. UNTIL NOW, THOSE WHO WANT FULL SCALE INVESTIGATIONS AND PUNISHMENTS REMAINED A SMALL MINORITY ON THE FRINGE OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY WHOSE PRINCIPAL BACKING WAS INTERNATIONAL, IN PART BECAUSE, AS NOTED ABOVE, MOST ARGENTINES BELIEVED THAT THE TERRORISTS GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED AND THE METHODS APPLIED WERE SECONDARY.

23. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIDALGO SOLA AND HOLMBERG IS THAT THEY WERE NEVER PERCEIVED AS TERRORISTS AND THEIR DISAPPEARANCE/MURDER WERE APPARENTLY UNRELATED TO THE WAR. THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, LIKE JUAN ALEMANN, WHO WERE IN A POSITION TO KNOW A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE ABUSES OF POWER AND EXCESSES OF ALL TYPES COMMITTED UNDER THE CLOAK OF THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION, AND THEY WERE APPARENTLY ELIMINATED BECAUSE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN SILENT WAS DOUBTED. PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE DUPONT MURDER INVESTIGATION, MOST ARGENTINES BELIEVE THAT HE TOO WAS A VICTIM OF THE EXTENSION OF OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE, FOR MOST ARGENTINES,

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COUNTER-TERRORIST TACTICS TO PERSONS WITH NO TERRORIST CONNECTIONS.

24. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE UPROAR OVER THESE EVENTS, FOR THE FIRST TIME A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY IS CRITICAL OF THE GROUPS WHO USED SUCH METHODS. IT IS THEREFORE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR EVEN MODERATE CIVILIAN POLITICIANS TO CALL FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE HIDALGO SOLA, HOLMBERG AND [REDACTED]
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DUPONT CASES WITHOUT STEPPING INTO THE DELICATE AREA OF DEMANDING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE APPARATUS CREATED TO FIGHT THE TERRORISTS AND THE METHODS EMPLOYED.

25. THE DUPONT CASE ALSO PROVOKED CONCERN THAT THE SECRET, COMPARTMENTALIZED AND APPARENTLY AUTONOMOUS INTELLIGENCE UNITS CREATED TO DESTROY THE TERRORISTS, AND OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY CHIEFS APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE CONTROL AFTER 1978, CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO OPERATE WITH IMPUNITY. FINALLY, THE CRIME IS A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT, AND SOME OBSERVERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT ONE OF THE MOTIVES OF THE MURDERERS WAS TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS POSSIBLE DESTABILIZATION IN ORDER TO INTERRUPT THE PROCESS OF RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WHICH MIGHT CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATIONS THE CRIMINALS FEAR. MANY ARGENTINES ARE NOW ASKING THE QUESTION: DOES THE BIGNONE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE WILL AND POWER TO CARRY OUT A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE DUPONT MURDER AND BRING THE GUILTY TO JUSTICE REGARDLESS OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS? BIGNONE HAS PROMISED TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED TO CRACK THE CASE. IF SUCCESSFUL, AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE A NON-POLITICAL CRIME AS HIS POLICE CHIEF SUGGESTS, IT WILL CERTAINLY DISPEL A DARK CLOUD NOW HANGING OVER THE GOVERNMENT.

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